

other U.S. legal requirements applicable to the transactions authorized pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

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§ 550.568 Certain standby letters of credit and performance bonds.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, payment into a blocked account in a domestic bank by an issuing or confirming bank under a standby letter of credit in favor of a Libyan entity is prohibited by § 550.209 and not authorized, notwithstanding the provisions of § 550.511, if either (1) a specific license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section or (2) ten business days have not expired after notice to the account party pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Whenever an issuing or confirming bank shall receive such demand for payment under such a standby letter of credit, it shall promptly notify the account party. The account party may then apply within five business days for a specific license authorizing the account party to establish a blocked account on its books in the name of the Libyan entity in the amount payable under the credit, in lieu of payment by the issuing or confirming bank into a blocked account and reimbursement therefor by the account party. Nothing in this section relieves any such bank or such account party from giving any notice of defense against payment or reimbursement that is required by applicable law.

(c) Where there is outstanding a demand for payment under a standby letter of credit, and the issuing or confirming bank has been enjoined from making payment, upon removal of the injunction, the account party may apply for a specific license for the same purpose and in the same manner as that set forth in paragraph (b) of this section. The issuing or confirming bank shall not make payment under the standby letter of credit unless (1) ten business days have expired since the bank has received notice of the removal of the injunction and (2) a specific license issued to the account party pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph has not been presented to the bank.

(d) If necessary to assure the availability of the funds blocked, the Secretary may at any time require the payment of the amounts due under any letter of credit described in paragraph (a) of this section into a blocked account in a domestic bank or the supplying of any form of security deemed necessary.

(e) Nothing in this section precludes the account party on any standby letter of credit or any other person from at any time contesting the legality of the demand from Libyan entity or from raising any other legal defense to payment under the standby letter of credit.

(f) This section does not affect the obligation of the various parties of the instruments covered by this section if the instruments and payments thereunder are subsequently unblocked.

(g) For the purposes of this section,

(1) The term *standby letter of credit* shall mean a letter of credit securing performance of, or repayment of any advance payments or deposits under, a contract with the Government of Libya, or any similar obligation in the nature of a performance bond; and

(2) The term *account party* shall mean the person for whose account the standby letter of credit is opened.

(h) The regulations do not authorize any U.S. person to reimburse a non-U.S. bank for payment to the Government of Libya under a standby letter of credit, except by payments into a blocked account in accordance with § 550.511 or paragraph (b) or (c) of this section.

(i) A person receiving a specific license under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section shall certify to the Office of Foreign Assets Control within five business days after receipt of that license that it has established the blocked account on its books as provided for in those paragraphs. However, in appropriate cases, this time period may be extended upon application to the Office of Foreign Assets Control when the account party has filed a petition with an appropriate court seeking a judicial order barring payment by the issuing or confirming bank.

(j) The extension or renewal of a standby letter of credit is authorized.

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